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# U.S. immigration policy causes migrant deaths

**By Ted Kelly**

Mexican police arrested three officials from the National Immigration Institute and two private security guards as of March 30, after a deadly blaze at a migrant detention facility in Ciudad Juárez claimed the lives of 38 refugees on March 27. (Reuters, March 30) One of the incarcerated migrants, who had been accused of starting the fire, has also been arrested. (NPR, March 31)

According to the Ciudad Juárez fire department, no one at the detention center called emergency services. Rather, an on-duty captain saw the smoke and ran back to the station to alert others. Firefighters had to break down the cell doors to make a rescue. "It was a coincidence that we were fortunately able to get anybody out alive." (La Verdad, March 31)

Long before the fire, this mass murder was premeditated. No one should have been in that facility in the first place.

Who created the conditions that forced these people to flee their homes and seek asylum elsewhere?

Mexico side of the U.S. border wall at Friendship Park in Las Playas de Tijuana, Baja California, December 2018. WW PHOTO: TED KELLY

Immigrants rights activists are correctly pointing to Title 42, a policy implemented by former President Donald Trump in 2020, that forced asylum seekers in the U.S. back across the border by tightening restrictions on who qualifies for asylum.

The rule has enabled U.S. border agents to order 2.7 million expulsions since March 2020, according to the Washington Office for Latin America. Less than 8% of all migrants encountered at U.S.-Mexico border checkpoints are granted asylum. (borderoversight.org)

Title 42, preposterously pitched as a public health initiative to stop the spread of COVID-19, is scheduled to end May 11. In reality Title 42 "denies migrants a chance to seek asylum on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19, but enforcement has fallen disproportionately on Mexicans, Hondurans, Guatemalans and El Salvadorans, because those have been the only nationalities that Mexico agreed to take back." (KPBS, March 31)

Biden has signaled that he will let Title 42 expire — like he has so many other provisions that actually did help curb the spread of COVID-19. The White House may have wanted to prevent the U.S. Supreme Court from ruling on the legality of the asylum ban, which justices had voted to take up in March. After Biden's announcement, the high court canceled oral arguments on Title 42.

But whether Title 42 expires or not, the

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# March for Queer & Trans Youth Autonomy

**By Martha Grevatt**

More than 430 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been pushed in legislatures across the U.S. within the past three months, a terrifyingly swift escalation in cruelty, even for this country. To say that we are witnessing an emerging genocide would not be hyperbole. This is why an impressive number showed up in actions called in all 50 U.S. states and Washington, D.C. for the "March for Queer & Trans Youth Autonomy." The coordinated protests were held March 31 to commemorate Trans Day of Visibility.

New York City, March 31, 2023. WW PHOTO: RENÉE IMPERATO

Trans youth and their loved ones know what is at stake here. National demands included "Codify Title IX to include sexuality, gender identity and gender expression," a "Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ+ Students" and "an end to violence and hatred directed toward all people. We ask for empathy and clear actions to support our queer, trans, BIPOC and disabled communities who survive every day despite the world we live in."

Workers World reporters attended a number of events on March 31.

In **New York City** over 700 trans youth and allies marched from Union Square to Washington Square for a rally. Many were protesting for their first time in an action pulled together in a short amount of time by new organizers.

The militant, multinational crowd chanted: "We're here, we're queer, get used to it" and "Stonewall means fight back!" Other chants, posted before the march on Instagram, linked the struggle against transphobia with the struggle against fascism, the police, racism, sexism and Islamophobia.

The Georgia Assembly, in the waning hours of its March 29 session, voted to outlaw medical services to youth under 18 for issues relating to gender identity. Despite passionate testimony by parents, scientific arguments by medical experts and crowds of sign-carrying youth occupying the balconies and hallways, the legislation criminalizing necessary health care was passed into law.

On the day of action, defiant trans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, gender-nonconforming and queer youth, their parents, and supporters gathered on the steps of the state Capitol to declare their humanity and pledge resistance. Following powerful stories by teenagers and young adults about their struggles

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# U Penn residential assistants march for union recognition

**By Joe Piette**
**Philadelphia**

University of Pennsylvania residential advisers and graduate resident associates held a march and rally March 31 to draw attention to their fight for union recognition. Their energetic rally notified university officials that this struggle for union rights by over 200 university student workers will not be a quiet campaign.

The list of speakers organized by United RAs at Penn, Office and Professional Employees International Union (OPEIU) Local 153 featured Philadelphia mayoral candidate Helen Gym and Pennsylvania State Representative Rick Krajewski. The rally also included Evan Kassof of the Temple University Graduate Students' Association, whose members had just concluded a victorious 42-day strike.

RAs are required to stay on campus through weekends and holidays, attend weekly staff meetings, meet one-on-one with students, respond to emergencies, organize hall events and work overnight shifts. In exchange, they get housing and access to three buffet meals per week. During the pandemic, RAs were asked to put in long hours and risk their own health.

Residential assistant Madelaine Riley explained in an OPEIU press release announcing the union recognition campaign: "I love being an RA. I love forming a community with my residents, getting to know them and helping them to bond with one another and grow as individuals. That said, the RA role is still a job and a difficult one at that."

"It is hours of planning, organizing and emotional output that goes largely uncompensated. I believe that it is important for us to unionize, so that RAs as a collective can have the ability to advocate for ourselves and our needs. If we are going to improve our working environment and get the compensation that we need, we need to have a stronger voice, and we can get there collectively with a union."

RA Mica Lin-Alves stated, "The work that RAs do is vital — building community, supporting residents in times of both crisis and growth. It's also more challenging and even more important for us, because we are the generation of students who have been impacted by the social isolation of the pandemic.

"That's why we need compensation that reflects the importance of our work, and we need an influential, democratic voice, and only a union can give us that. I hope that Penn administration, faculty and students all recognize the importance of our role in residential life and support our effort to build a stronger, more fair and democratic workplace." (tinyurl.com/h4ar67xm)

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

**U Penn RA students lead march through campus for union recognition March 31, 2023.**

The student workers' immediate demand is a union election and voluntary recognition. Organizers are asking supporters to sign a letter asking U Penn leadership to not engage in anti-union campaigns against the RAs and GAs. (tinyurl.com/bddd5p48) Similar student RAs have voted for union recognition at Barnard, Mount Holyoke, Wesleyan, Columbia and Tufts. ☐

# *Join us in the fight for socialism!*

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Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and worldwide. If you're interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. ☐

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# Transphobia—a product of capitalism

**By Maddi Johnson**
**Portland, Oregon**

*Note: The following talk was given during the Trans Day of Resistance, March 31 in Portland, Oregon. Johnson is a member of the Portland branch of Workers World Party.*

WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

**Maddi Johnson speaking at Trans Day of Resistance in Portland, March 31.**

Where does transphobia come from? Are we born hating each other?

Civilizations throughout history have had different gender norms than we do — different conceptions of what it means to be a woman or a man or something else entirely.

There were societies that not only accepted but revered gender-diverse people, even ones where such people were necessary to their cultures. This is not to say that bigotry did not exist in those societies or that we need to go back to a time before things got corrupted. But merely to explain that societies have prevailing ideologies, normalized ways of thinking that are built around the conditions those societies existed in.

Transphobes talk about the degradation of society, a return to tradition, to the values of "Western Civilization." What tradition are they referring to? Why does their tradition exclude trans people, while the traditions of some other cultures champion us?

Transphobia in our society has a root. It is the same place sexism (the oppression of women) comes from: patriarchy. And patriarchy has a root: class society.

There was a time before class society, when children were raised in a more communal fashion. Where monogamy was not the standard — a society where you may not know for sure who a child's father is, but you always know who the mother is; mothers have a certain right of stewardship over their children.

As agriculture led to centralized static living, and the land was enclosed and divided up, so too did relationships change from fluid, to polygamy (but only for men; a woman could never have multiple husbands), to strict monogamy. Marriages became more permanent, and instead of children falling under the final purview of their mother, both became the property of the father. Thus we have the nuclear family, the smallest building block of class society.

Why was this necessary? When a man died, his land and his wealth fell to his son. The legitimacy of a child's parentage could not be questioned. Infidelity was a high crime, and women became shackled to their husbands for the purpose of preserving the class structure.

This is the tradition that feudalism and, later, capitalism were born into. This was part of the prevailing ideology that kept those at the top rich and powerful. And thus it was necessary to make those at the bottom believe in it, lest they start questioning everything else.

### Innate threats to class society

Some people pose innate threats to this system: people like independent women, like gay people, like transgender people. While in a communal society, those people would have been able to play a role in the shared responsibility of raising children; they did not have a place in class society. Their existence threatened the house of cards everything was perched upon.

Have you ever noticed how bigots are more willing to tolerate queer folks who seem "normal?" The white gay couple in the suburbs? The passing strictly binary trans woman? It's because those people at least approximate the existing class structure. The further away you get from it, the less comfortable they are. But that's why people were taught to hate us. They say we're unnatural. We don't fit into their family values. We corrupt the moral fabric of society.

Whether bigots realize it or not, and usually they don't, the tradition of heteronormative families serving property is what people are talking about when they discuss a return to traditionalism at the expense of trans folks.

Now, your typical backward worker isn't thinking of all these thousands of years of history, when they say that trans people are ruining things. What they're thinking about is how hard it is to survive: how hard they work; how little they make; how much they pay in medical bills; how there's nothing they can believe in anymore; and how it's only getting harder. They desperately want to cling to what they do have.

And so instead of looking up at the top of the pyramid, they listen to the ruling class when they're told that the people at the bottom of the pyramid are upsetting the natural order and threatening everything they hold dear.

This is where bigotry comes from. This is how we get the frothing hatred toward "wokism." Of people of color. Of the LGBTQ2S+ community. It's a fear of losing one's place in the system.

So when you wonder: "Why do they hate us so much? Why are they passing all these bills across the country to hurt us and to exclude us and to drive us to suicide?" It's because conditions are getting bad, and the ruling class needs a distraction. They want the working class violently angry at us instead of them.

Enough! Enough relying on the system to fix the system! The capitalist system is the reason a bunch of fascists are in the government getting ready to kill us!

This is what we mean when we say that trans rights are a class issue. We have to unite as workers, stop looking at things individually, see how they're all connected and fight the problem at the root.

Get organized! Get out of the closet and into the streets! □

# March for 'Queer & Trans Youth Autonomy'

*Continued from page 1*

and victories to be their authentic selves, the crowd of hundreds took to the streets of downtown **Atlanta**.

A youthful crowd of about 150 trans, queer and allied people marched through downtown **Cleveland**, blocking lanes of traffic and at one point a whole busy intersection. Chants included "What do you want? Trans rights! When do you want them? Now" and "If we don't get it, shut it down!" As a show of solidarity, people later chanted "Black Lives Matter!"

A speaker at an impromptu rally explained the potential damage in a newly introduced Ohio House bill that bans trans-affirming surgeries and hormone treatments for minors, along with "aiding and abetting" trans youth who travel out of state for their health care needs.

**Cleveland** WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

**Atlanta** PHOTO: LORRAINE FONTANNA

Other speakers had been part of the battle to hold a "Rock and Roll Humanist Drag Queen Story Hour" at a park in the small town of Wadsworth, Ohio, March 11. They fought the Nazis, who showed up with swastika flags and shouted racist and transphobic slurs but who were unsuccessful in shutting down the event.

The march was one of three actions in the Cleveland area that day.

In **Seattle** a vigil was held for Eucy, a trans warrior murdered when three county sheriffs invaded her apartment to enforce an eviction for overdue rent and opened fire. Eucy defended herself, and one cop went to the hospital in critical condition. After the shooting in the Lower Ballard neighborhood, the police swarmed the whole area.

Speakers at the memorial spoke about how Eucy was a social justice and tenants rights activist. She participated in many Black Lives Matter protests and was arrested for doing so. Eucy was a compassionate person, who would go out of her way to help others, speakers testified.

"Eucy was an anti-eviction activist," another shared. "That's why she was targeted. Her neighbor was threatened, and she helped him. That's why the landlord wanted her out."

The unremorseful system of capitalism killed Eucy and evicts millions of others, exposing them to the elements and deprivation. Some 10 million households were hit with eviction during the mortgage foreclosure crisis following the 2008 recession. This crisis continues.

A rally in **Portland**, Oregon, drew an impressive number of people. Maddi Johnson, who spoke for Workers World Party, was not expecting the deafening cheers she received, when she shouted these words to several hundred people shivering in Oregon rain: "Enough! Enough relying on the system to fix the system! The capitalist system is the reason a bunch of fascists are in the government getting ready to kill us!"

Johnson reports to WW, "While most speakers gave touching speeches about bravery, the agony of lost loved ones and the joy of community and self-determination, I pulled inspiration from Engels and spoke about the class origins of transphobia. Halfway through my speech, the crowd had not made a peep. By the end, they were ready to mount the barricades.

"People are desperate for change, but centuries of bourgeois propaganda have left workers lashing out aimlessly. Marginalized communities are even more acutely aware of the chains around their necks. They sense intuitively that the capitalist machine offers them no liberation. Before my speech, I was shocked by the eagerness with which the protesters took our newspapers. Within minutes, we had blown through our whole stack.

"After my speech, I had several individuals approaching me to ask how they can get organized. This is why we must not conceal our aims as communists. We have a message that resonates with people, one that offers them a solution beyond liberalism's useless platitudes. The youth are ready to revolt, and we would be unwise to ignore them."

*Maddi Johnson, Renée Imperato, Dianne Mathiowetz and Jim McMahan contributed to this article.*

**Portland, Oregon** WW PHOTO: LYN NEELEY

# Hunger strikes at ICE detention centers protest slave labor

**By Gloria Rubac**

"GEO is a billion-dollar company, and they're paying us $1 a day," 21-year-old detainee Cruz Martinez said. "They're getting rich off of us." (tinyurl.com/bdfm4y9h)

On Feb. 16, Martinez and over 80 incarcerated immigrants began a hunger strike at two ICE detention centers in California, because they are paid only $1.00 a day for working eight-hour shifts in the prisons run by GEO Group. They do janitorial work, which includes jobs where they've been exposed to black mold. The jobs involve scrubbing bathrooms, working as barbers, doing laundry and other jobs that maintain the facilities.

This hunger strike follows an earlier work stoppage that has been going on for 10 months. The strike and work stoppage both demanded that detainees who clean dorms and dining halls be paid the minimum wage and not $1 a day.

The hunger strike was at two for-profit immigration detention centers: the Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center in Bakersfield and the Golden State Annex in McFarland. If not for the forced labor, they would have to hire workers and pay the California minimum wage.

The hunger strike lasted for 35 days, until March 24. The numbers of strikers varied, as some had to drop out because of health problems while others joined in. Even though detention center officials used violent tactics to break the strike, hunger strikers' persistence continued for over a month.

According to detained people and their legal representatives, within several days of the start of the protest, hunger strikers faced retaliation in the form of threats of solitary confinement and bans on family visitation, among other punishments.

PHOTO: TANIA BERNAL, CALIFORNIA IMMIGRANT YOUTH JUSTICE ALLIANCE

**Protesters outside Mesa Verde ICE Processing Center in Bakersfield, California, June 4, 2020.**

### ICE raids brutal

But on March 17, the retaliation took a violent turn. A press release from the California Collaborative says: "In the early morning, ICE special response unit raided a dorm at Mesa Verde, slammed at least three strikers to the floor, placed them in handcuffs and transferred four strikers to a facility in El Paso, Texas, where they broke their strike after being threatened with force-feeding by court order. Strikers at Mesa Verde, who witnessed the violent transfers, broke their strike in fear of being subject to further retaliation."

On March 14 ICE agents raided the Golden State Annex, where at least one person had an officer kneel on his head, causing injuries to his face, and three people were removed from the facility. All phone lines were cut after the raid began — including protected attorney lines.

Members of the Mesa Verde-Golden State Annex Support Committee provided wide public support for the strikers, who have vowed to continue their struggle for liberation and to have the two facilities shut down.

Members of the support committee include: the ACLU Foundation of Northern California, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus, California Collaborative for Immigrant Justice, California Immigrant Youth Justice Alliance, Centro Legal de la Raza, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity, El Concilio Family Services, Freedom for Immigrants and Free Them All San Diego.

Other supporters include Kern Welcoming and Extending Solidarity to Immigrants, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement-Sacramento Chapter, La Voz de los Trabajadores, Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area, National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild, Pangea Legal Services, Papeles Para Todos and the Rapid Response Network of Kern County. ❑

# Prisoners and family members demand care not jails

**By Judy Greenspan**
**Dublin, California**

In what was an incredibly moving ceremony and protest, former prisoners, family members, clergy, prison abolitionists and community organizations gathered at the Santa Rita Alameda County Jail in Dublin, April 1, to send this powerful message: "We need healing, housing and care, not deaths!"

The Care First Community Coalition held space outside the large jail for people to express their anger and grief over the deaths of over 70 incarcerated people at the jail since 2014. Four of those deaths happened in the first two months of 2023. CFCC is a coalition of community agencies, activist groups and religious organizations.

The healing circle or rally consisted of family members, former prisoners and others speaking out about the abuse suffered by people incarcerated inside Santa Rita Jail, the larger of two jails in the Alameda County detention system. The facility currently has 2,600 prisoners locked up inside. Around 85% are pretrial.

A prisoner inside delivered a taped statement about his experience in May 2022 in the Intensive Care Unit at Stanford Health Center after attempting suicide. He called out the Santa Rita jail administration for neglecting and ignoring Black men who "suffer from mental illness."

The prisoner, who identified himself as a Black man, spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation, stating, "This is a jail, not a place of healing or a place of care. We are subjected to trauma daily here. I want us to be clear on this point." The incarcerated speaker ended by thanking everyone who attended the protest, "I cannot express in words how very grateful I am for your assembling out here in order to demand that this county provide care not death."

After the rally and vigil, a loud noise protest and march were held in front of the jail, with protesters banging on drums and pots and carrying paper tombstones, commemorating everyone who has died inside Santa Rita Jail.

CFCC, whose backbone organization is Restore Oakland, is committed to fighting for justice and care for county residents with behavioral health concerns in the Santa Rita Jail. Their mission is simple. "We call on the County

WW PHOTO: JUDY GREENSPAN

**Noise protest and march in front of Santa Rita County jail.**

to divest from the systems that cage and criminalize our community members and to invest in holistic health care, housing and life-affirming resources that create true safety and healing for Alameda County residents." ❑

# U.S. immigration policy causes migrant deaths

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White House is poised to make the policy permanent through other means.

### Hard-line policies continue under Biden

Since his 2020 presidential campaign, Biden painted himself as a compassionate, reasonable alternative to the hard-line and openly racist incumbent, especially when it came to immigration.

Just last month, the White House released a statement claiming "Biden has taken historic steps to secure our border and rebuild a safe, orderly and humane immigration system that was gutted by the previous administration." (whitehouse.gov, March 9)

In the same statement, the White House boasted it has increased the budget of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by more than $800 million, for a total of nearly $25 billion.

As a senator, Biden supported the "Secure Fence Act of 2006," signed into law by then-President George W. Bush, which authorized the construction of 700 miles of partition walls along the Mexican border. In a primary debate in 2007 during his second failed bid to become president, Biden defended his border fence vote, on the basis of preventing drug trafficking. Referring to "14 million illegals," he pledged to "take out the criminals" and "get them back." (New York Times, June 3, 2007)

Under Barack Obama's presidency, whom Biden served as second-in-command, Obama was known by his second term to immigrant rights activists as the "deporter-in-chief." Why? Because he had expelled more people than any U.S. president before him, with over 3 million deportations combined.

According to a 2021 American Immigration Council fact sheet: "Since the creation of DHS [Department of Homeland Security] in 2003, ICE spending has nearly tripled, from $3.3 billion to $8.3 billion today. Much of this funding has gone to increasing the agency's ability to hold immigrants in detention in locations around the country."

### Free them all! Full legalization now!

How dangerous is it to attempt to cross the U.S. border illegally today? The CBP's own reporting suggests they discovered 7,500 corpses of refugees between 1998 and 2018. (cbp.gov, 2019) And that was before Title 42 was implemented.

The United Nations reported migrant deaths in 2019 as 497, one of the highest on record. (un.org, Jan. 28, 2020) In 2020, the year Title 42 took effect, the remains of 227 migrants were found in Arizona. (Guardian, Jan. 30, 2021)

In 2021, Humane Borders reported finding 43 bodies in the Sonoran desert during the month of June. Brad Jones, a volunteer, said: "What is happening is climate change is real, and the temperatures have been getting hotter, and the weather itself is more volatile." (VOA, Aug. 2, 2021) June 2021 was the hottest year on record for Arizona, where heat-related deaths have increased more than 60%. (Guardian, Jan. 27, 2022)

The official death toll increased by 58% subsequently, as 800 people died during attempted crossings between September 2021 and 2022, the highest toll reported by CBP to date. In June of last year, 53 people died in a single incident when locked in the back of a tractor trailer outside San Antonio. (Texas Tribune, June 27, 2022)

The deadly fire in Ciudad Juarez proves that refugees and migrants are put in an impossible position by U.S. border policy: Risk dying in prison or risk dying in the desert. The callousness and cruelty of border agents and capitalists, who give them their marching orders, must not be permitted to continue. The only way to stop the mass deaths on the U.S. border is to make passage between the U.S. and Mexico safe and legal. ❑

WORKERS WORLD *editorial*

# Is Israel a ‘democracy’?

For the past 13 weeks, Israel has been rocked with massive demonstrations in the hundreds of thousands, especially in Tel Aviv, targeting the far-right, neofascist government headed by the butcher Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

What prompted the protests was a proposed “reform package” that would curtail the judiciary branch of the government and would give Israeli politicians, viewed as being the “moderate” wing, more authority to pick judges. Netanyahu stated that such a change was necessary to balance the power between judges and parliamentarians. At the same time, Netanyahu continues to face charges of corruption.

The demonstrations have been so relentless that the “reform” changes have been suspended, at least for now. As of now only a small number of people who oppose Netanyahu’s reforms have questioned Israeli apartheid policies.

Netanyahu’s critics say that the proposed changes would be a threat to Israel’s “democracy,” which begs the questions: Is Israel a democracy now, and has it ever been a democracy since its founding? The answers are an emphatic Hell NO!!!

The state of Israel is an illegal formation founded on the blood, sweat and tears of the Palestinian people, who were the original inhabitants of the land for thousands of years. British imperialists passed the Balfour Declaration in 1917, declaring that Palestine would become a “national home for the Jewish people.” A small minority of Jewish people were then living in peaceful coexistence with Palestinians, before the declaration was codified.

As was written in a December 2022 WW editorial: “The official founding of the Israeli state in 1948 was accompanied by massacres and the forced removal through genocidal terror and intimidation of three-quarters of the population of Palestine at that time. Some 750 towns and villages were literally wiped from the face of the Earth, their remains bulldozed away, come to be known as Nakba, aka “the Disaster.”

“In violation of international law, not to mention the human rights of the Palestinians, the Israeli military occupied Arab homes and land, vowing never to allow the people they had cruelly uprooted and driven out to return to their homeland. In 1967, in another war of aggression, Israelis seized the West Bank, Gaza and the Golan Heights, where they still remain to control, blockade and terrorize.” (workers.org/2022/12/68147)

Israel became a military garrison state for imperialist interests in this oil-rich region. For the Palestinian people, Israel is a colonial settler state ruled by the iron fist of white supremacy. Palestinians, including young workers and children, are ruthlessly beaten, murdered and uprooted from their homes, as Zionist settlements are expanded on a daily basis in the Occupied Territories.

Despite the brutal occupation of Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), armed to the teeth by the Pentagon, the Palestinian people continue to heroically resist and fight back against this repression with mass protests and strikes, armed with only rocks and bottles. This kind of resistance continues to inspire not only the oppressed masses throughout the Middle East but throughout the world, including the imperialist centers like the U.S.

A growing number of Jewish activists, many of them young, are defying Zionism and siding with the Palestinian people by joining the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign and other militant campaigns to help politically weaken and isolate Israel. The resistance has also resulted in the IDF facing a mounting crisis from those forced into military conscription and facing prosecution for refusing to kill Palestinians.

Underneath the current Israeli instability is that despite committing terrorist acts, Israel has been unable to contain the Palestinian people’s quest for national liberation, especially winning back their rightful, ancient and stolen lands from their oppressors.

Instead of flying the despicable Israeli flag, thousands of Palestinian flags, outlawed by the Netanyahu government, should be proudly flown. Palestine will be free! ❑

# ‘NO WAR ON CHINA! NO Arms to Taiwan!’

Antiwar activists organized several evening light shows across New York City on March 30, calling for the United Nations, United States and European countries to stop sending arms to Ukraine, stop U.S. sanctions against other countries, and demanding no war on China and no arms sales to Taiwan!

The China-U.S. Solidarity Network, along with the International Action Center, United National Antiwar Coalition and the SanctionKills Campaign, held a light show on the outside walls of the U.S. Mission to the U.N. and the hotel where U.S.-backed Taiwan-proxy leader Tsai Ing-wen was staying for her 3-day New York “transit” visit, The trip was staged to provoke mainland China over Taiwan “independence” and to seek more U.S. arms sales.

Groups vowed to continue to fight against the U.S. war machine and to build global solidarity for a better future!

**— Story and photo by Sara Flounders**

*See workers.org/2023/04/70212 for a full article on U.S. threats against China. View video of the events at youtu.be/oNsr1rcgXOw.*

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# La crisis bancaria

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ralentizar o incluso detener la economía, echar a decenas de millones de trabajadores de sus puestos de trabajo y atacar a los trabajadores y a los oprimidos de mil maneras, hasta que el sistema vuelva a ser lucrativo. El problema ahora con el libro de jugadas de salvar el capitalismo es que los capitalistas no pueden detener ni controlar el incendio que han provocado y el deslizamiento hacia una catástrofe sin precedentes.

**¿Qué deben hacer los revolucionarios?**

Discutir las dimensiones de la crisis bancaria y hacia dónde se dirige es esencial, pero no es suficiente. Es vital que los revolucionarios, socialistas y comunistas comprendan y respondan a la peligrosa crisis política que todo esto crea para la clase obrera. O la clase obrera y los oprimidos y sus organizaciones y movimientos convierten esta crisis en una oportunidad para organizarse -levantándose e insuflando vida a una lucha de clases militante y masiva contra el capitalismo- o las fuerzas neofascistas llenarán el vacío, acumularán fuerzas y abrirán una guerra total contra la clase obrera.

Para que no lo olvidemos, fue el casi colapso del sistema financiero capitalista en 2008, el rescate de Wall Street y la “Gran Recesión” lo que allanó el camino para el ascenso de Trump y de un movimiento fascista que ha emprendido ataques violentos contra los más oprimidos.

A raíz de 2008, el movimiento obrero, así como otros movimientos progresistas, con algunas excepciones notables, fueron puestos en jaque por el Partido Demócrata. Impedir que la clase obrera se levante, rompa con el capitalismo y haga lo necesario para constituirse como fuerza social, consciente de sí misma como clase, es el principal objetivo del Partido Demócrata. Debemos, por todos los medios necesarios, evitar que se repita la trampa política posterior a 2008 que impidió que la clase obrera se levantara.

La buena noticia es que, en los últimos dos años, hemos visto el comienzo de una joven rebelión obrera que tiene el potencial de empujar a la clase obrera hacia un mayor nivel de organización y lucha de clases. Los trabajadores de Starbucks, Amazon y otros innumerables trabajadores de cadenas de tiendas, hospitales, fábricas y empresas de tecnología, junto con los trabajadores gig y los trabajadores migrantes, han creado la mayor apertura para el progreso revolucionario de masas en la clase obrera en casi un siglo.

El movimiento obrero ha tomado nota de este desarrollo y le ha ofrecido cierto apoyo. Pero ese apoyo es una gota en un cubo cuando se trata de detener una de las mayores guerras antisindicales de la historia reciente, dirigida por los líderes corporativos de Amazon y Starbucks.

**Los sindicatos deben romper con los demócratas**

Están ocurriendo cosas interesantes en el movimiento sindical. Los sindicatos más antiguos, como los Teamsters y la UAW, están experimentando un cambio basado en las bases. Pero el sindicalismo corporativo y verticalista vinculado al Partido Demócrata sigue siendo la norma. Es hora de abrir una nueva lucha política dentro del movimiento obrero, una lucha que aporte la energía y la militancia de los jóvenes trabajadores, que están en movimiento.

Hemos visto a los trabajadores franceses hacer huelga y salir a las calles por millones para detener el ataque de Macron y la burguesía francesa contra sus derechos duramente ganados. Tenemos que preguntar: ¿Por qué el movimiento obrero estadounidense no ha organizado una protesta frente a la misión francesa ante las Naciones Unidas para mostrar su apoyo a los trabajadores franceses? Los trabajadores estadounidenses podrían aprender mucho de los franceses, y así debería ser. Al fin y al cabo, pertenecemos a la misma clase, una clase global que no debería reconocer fronteras.

El verano pasado Liz Shuler se convirtió en presidenta de la AFL-CIO. Probablemente la inmensa mayoría de los trabajadores que no están sindicados, o incluso muchos de los que están sindicados, ni siquiera conocen su nombre. Es probable que más trabajadores hayan oído hablar de Chris Smalls, el presidente del sindicato Amazon Labor Union, que consiguió la primera victoria sindical contra el gigante transnacional, que en muchos sentidos es la empresa capitalista más poderosa del mundo.

¿Por qué el movimiento obrero no ha convocado una marcha importante y seria contra Amazon o Starbucks, en apoyo de los trabajadores y contra la represión sindical? Esto tiene que cambiar, y debemos entender que es nuestro deber como luchadores revolucionarios por la clase obrera encontrar la manera de convertirnos en los agentes de ese cambio. ❑

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**Los estudiantes se suman a la lucha para defender la jubilación. París, 7 de marzo.**

# *Comunicado:* La clase obrera en Francia entierra a sus sepultureros

**Por CNC en el Estado Español**

*Comunicado de la Coordinadora de Núcleos Comunistas (CNC) en el Estado Español (España), publicado el 28 de marzo de 2023. Workers World publica este comunicado porque también podría aplicarse como mensaje para la clase obrera de Estados Unidos.*

**Allez vous-faire foutre! (¡Vá para o inferno!)**
**Esclaves du capital! (¡Esclavos del capital!)**
**Servants de l'OTAN (Siervos de la OTAN!)**

La clase obrera francesa nos da, de nuevo, una gran lección de lucha de clases; y empezando por el principio, nos muestra qué es una huelga general.

Nada que ver con los patéticos simulacros de huelga convocados por nuestras grandes centrales sindicales que no han servido más que para profundizar el sentimiento de impotencia ante el único resultado cierto: el descuento en el salario de la jornada no trabajada.

La huelga general y las movilizaciones populares, ante un ataque general contra la clase trabajadora, no tienen un final previsto; se lucha hasta la victoria o hasta que se agotan las fuerzas.

Tras dos meses de movilizaciones contra el aumento de la edad de jubilación de 62 a 64 años (¡aquí vamos por los 67 y, visto el éxito, el Ministro José Luis Escrivá prepara la privatización de la atención primaria!), su imposición por Decreto, aplicando la legislación de excepción prevista en el artículo 49.3 de la Constitución francesa, no ha hecho sino echar más leña al fuego.

### La clase obrera

La clase obrera ha tomado la batuta. Sabía lo que había que hacer y dirigió la acción: bloqueo de zonas industriales, de puertos, centrales nucleares, del transporte público y de mercancías, de aeropuertos –con la incorporación a la huelga de los controladores –, de la recogida e incineración de basuras, paralización de la enseñanza, bloqueo de autopistas dejando los peajes gratuitos, barricadas en puntos estratégicos de las ciudades...

Luchan los trabajadores de cada sector junto a todos los demás sectores. Así, si bien la descarga de barcos la impiden los estibadores, también se suman a esos piquetes, los metalúrgicos, los del sector eléctrico, los estudiantes, incluso los maestros, etc. Los agricultores llevan sus productos a los que ocupan las fábricas.

Y cuando tras duros enfrentamientos con los antidisturbios, que no pocas veces dejan más heridos entre ellos que entre los trabajadores, como en Saint Nazaire , y el piquete es desalojado, la lucha se traslada a otro frente; por ejemplo, a derribar el pórtico del puente sobre el Loira, impidiendo así el paso de camiones cisterna por carretera.

El poder obrero se muestra también de otras formas. Los trabajadores de la energía, mediante operaciones clandestinas, cortan la electricidad a las sedes del partido de Macron, a domicilios de sus diputados y de grandes empresarios, a grandes multinacionales y en especial a firmas de data center, a radares de carreteras y otros instrumentos de control. Por el contrario, se provee de electricidad gratuita a hospitales, escuelas, residencias de mayores, barrios obreros donde se concentran los sectores más precarizados... etc.

Y la lucha continúa jusqu´ au bout (hasta el final). Y no son palabras. Por primera vez en la historia reciente, y retomando una de las reglas sagradas de la AIT, se han puesto en marcha cajas de resistencia que en pocos días han recogido más de tres millones de euros.

***La clase obrera ha tomado la batuta. Sabía lo que había que hacer y dirigió la acción.***

### La represión es durísima

La represión, por supuesto, es durísima. Hay heridos y cientos de personas detenidas cada día. La brutalidad policial ha sido tan grande que hasta el Consejo de Europa ha abierto una investigación.

Un trabajador de 30 años se debate entre la vida y la muerte tras estallarle en la cabeza una granada explosiva, mientras la prefectura impidió durante horas que recibiera atención sanitaria. Pero eso solo añade más razones al combate.

El objetivo es el Presidente Emmanuel Macron, pero no sólo él. Se extiende la conciencia de que es una marioneta de la Unión Europea y de la gran burguesía. Se habla cada vez más de crisis de régimen y de retomar el Programa del Consejo de la Resistencia de 1945 , organismo creado en 1943 que coordinó y dirigió la resistencia contra el fascismo. Este Programa propuso la nacionalización de todos los sectores estratégicos y de él surgió la Seguridad Social, con el sistema de pensiones actualmente vigente.

Así mismo, se cuestiona el gasto militar, se propone la salida de la OTAN y la UE, se vinculan las sanciones a Rusia con la carestía de la vida..., llegando a quemar banderas de Ucrania.

Quienes protagonizaron la primera revolución obrera de la historia, La Comuna de 1871, las trabajadoras, las tejedoras de Lyon que ya en 1870 redactaron el primer manifiesto de la historia llamando a los jóvenes a desertar de la guerra francoprusiana, o el pueblo que vengó con la guillotina los crímenes de siglos de monarquía, nos demuestran qué es una huelga general.

### Es sacar el genio de la botella

Que no es solo dejar de trabajar. Es, a partir de ahí, mostrar y sobre todo tomar conciencia del poder obrero, de ese milagro cotidiano que sale cada día de las manos de las trabajadoras y los trabajadores para reproducir la vida, y por lo tanto, de prescindir de esa clase parásita que arruina al país y nuestras vidas. Es sacar el genio de la botella...

Es esa clase obrera que superó los límites de las organizaciones sindicales vistiendo con chalecos amarillos el inmenso y diverso proletariado. La misma que fue capaz de tumbar la decisión de la cúpula de su principal sindicato, que pretendía que la votación de la Constitución Europea no concernía a la clase obrera, obligando a la CGT a pedir activamente el NO que salió victorioso. Esa clase reanuda el hilo rojo de la historia.

Su poderosa lucha está barriendo como un vendaval furioso todos los ríos de tinta vertidos desde los plumíferos del poder de toda laya o de quienes se instalan en la derrota, proclamando la desaparición de la clase obrera, la ruptura generacional o de género, las diferencias insalvables entre la clase obrera autóctona e inmigrante o la imposibilidad de luchar contra la todo poderosa represión del Estado en los países centrales del imperialismo.

La clase obrera francesa, ocupando el centro neurálgico de la lucha y demostrando su capacidad de incorporar a otros sectores populares, ha prendido una importantísima mecha en el polvorín de un capitalismo agónico que no ofrece a la inmensa mayoría, y sobre todo a la juventud, más que miseria, guerra y barbarie.

La clase obrera de los pueblos de Europa tiene ya un camino abierto y un precioso ejemplo a seguir que debemos difundir como un tesoro. Es preciso que lo que con tanto ahínco ocultan o tergiversan los medios de comunicación, sea desvelado, discutido y analizado en asambleas en los centros de trabajo, en los sindicatos, en los barrios obreros, en la universidad...

Es necesario comparar lo que pasa en Francia, con lo que ha sucedido y sucede aquí [en el Estado Español]: con todas las reformas laborales y las de las pensiones, con los recortes y privatizaciones de los servicios públicos, con la carestía de la vida, con los gastos militares impuestos por la OTAN, con los planes de destrucción masiva de puestos de trabajo...Y sobre todo, preguntarnos por qué la reacción aquí ha sido tan débil o prácticamente inexistente, y qué relación tiene con la pérdida de la independencia de clase.

El tiempo apremia y no debemos desaprovechar este ejemplo luminoso. Debemos sacudirnos la impotencia y el sentimiento de derrota y reforzar la organización obrera desde la base. No pasará mucho tiempo sin que se intenten aquí nuevos ataques. Y no es muy exagerado decir que en la fuerza con la que respondamos nos va la vida.

Ciento cincuenta y dos años después, el rescoldo de la Comuna de París sigue latiendo. Carlos Marx terminaba así su palpitante homenaje y su lapidaria condena a los agoreros del fin de la historia, en "La guerra civil en Francia":

"El París de los obreros, con su Comuna, será eternamente ensalzado como heraldo glorioso de una nueva sociedad. Sus mártires tienen su santuario en el gran corazón de la clase obrera. Y a sus exterminadores la historia los ha clavado ya en una picota eterna, de la que no lograrán redimirlos todas las preces de su clerigalla." □

# La crisis bancaria

**MO COMENTARIO**

## ¿Empujará a la clase obrera o al fascismo a alzarse?

**Por Larry Holmes**

A la clase dominante capitalista le preocupa que la crisis bancaria, que comenzó hace menos de un mes con el colapso del Silicon Valley Bank y se extendió rápidamente, pueda convertirse en una crisis financiera mundial mayor que el crack de 2008. Se acabó hablar de un "aterrizaje suave". La industria tecnológica, pilar del capitalismo estadounidense durante mucho tiempo, se tambalea al borde del precipicio, al igual que el mercado inmobiliario comercial.

A pesar de los esfuerzos de emergencia realizados las 24 horas del día por la Casa Blanca, la Reserva Federal, el Departamento del Tesoro y Wall Street para rescatar a los bancos y evitar el contagio, las retiradas de fondos de los bancos medianos se han extendido por todo Estados Unidos y por todo el mundo. En la creciente lista de temores del sistema capitalista figura en primer lugar que esta nueva crisis, que ya ha asfixiado el crédito y puesto de manifiesto la magnitud de la crisis sistémica de la deuda, paralice prácticamente los préstamos bancarios, exacerbando la temida crisis de "liquidez".

Cuando eso ocurra, las fichas del dominó empezarán a caer aún más rápido, y un colapso global del sistema financiero y una supertormenta económica mundial serán cada vez más difíciles de evitar. La contradicción es que los propios capitalistas encendieron el fuego que se transformó en esta nueva crisis bancaria subiendo los tipos de interés, con el fin de paralizar la economía. Los banqueros centrales estaban siguiendo el viejo libro de jugadas.

Cuando el sistema económico desciende a una crisis más profunda y amenaza la obtención de ganancias, la solución a lo largo de la historia del capitalismo ha sido

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